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Letter dated 23 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the ongoing fighting in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued on 22 October 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the ongoing fighting in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 22 October 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union expresses its serious concern about the recent violent clashes in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and about the political implications of the renewed fighting as well as the humanitarian consequences for the Congolese population.

The European Union is concerned that the renewed tensions could lead to an unravelling of the impressive progress which has recently been made on the basis of the Pretoria and Luanda agreements.

The European Union calls on all armed groups and militias operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to refrain from military activities and to work for a political settlement of the conflict in the framework of the inter-Congolese dialogue, now that the foreign troops are completing their withdrawal from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The European Union encourages the parties to the Pretoria and Luanda agreements to work together in a constructive manner to build confidence and restore stability in the areas where fighting has erupted.

While welcoming the statement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo asking armed groups to cease hostilities in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union also calls on all the Governments, military forces and any other organization or individual to cease all support to any of the groups involved in the fighting in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, and to use their influence on these groups to persuade them to cease immediately any military activity.

The European Union is seriously concerned by the rise in human rights violations in the Ituri region and urges the parties to the conflict to respect the human rights of the population.

The European Union calls on the Security Council urgently to consider steps to defuse the tension in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in particular to review the mandate of MONUC and consider increasing its monitoring presence in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The European Union calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate fully, with MONUC and all other parties concerned, with regard to disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration. In particular, improved cooperation on that process in Kamina (access by MONUC to ex-combatants, removal of those FDLR members obstructing the process) is urgently needed.

The European Union appeals to all stakeholders in the inter-Congolese dialogue to step up the ongoing efforts to find a global, inclusive agreement with a view to establishing a transitional government.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.